

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. Cancelled.

2. (previously presented) The DNA of claim 20, which contains the whole of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:4.

3. (previously presented) An isolated DNA which encodes a desert hedgehog protein of human origin having the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:5, or an isolated DNA complementary thereto.

4. (previously presented) An isolated DNA which encodes a desert hedgehog protein of human origin having the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:6, or an isolated DNA complementary thereto.

Claim 5. Cancelled.

6. (Previously presented) The DNA of any one of claims 2, 3, 4, 20, 21 or 22, which is inserted into an autonomously replicable vector.

7. (previously presented) A transformed cell obtained by introducing the DNA of claim 6 into an appropriate host cell derived from a microbe, plant or animal.

Claims 8-10. Cancelled.

11. (previously presented) A process for producing a desert hedgehog protein of human origin, which comprises culturing the transformed cell of claim 7 to generate said desert hedgehog protein of human origin, and collecting the generated desert hedgehog protein of human origin.

Claim 12. Cancelled.

13. (currently Amended) The process of claim 11, wherein the generated desert hedgehog protein of human origin is collected by one or more methods selected from the group consisting of salting out, dialysis, filtration, concentration, fractional precipitation, ion-exchange chromatography, gel filtration chromatography, adsorption chromatography, isoelectric focusing chromatography, hydrophobic chromatography, reversed phase chromatography, affinity chromatography, gel electro-phoresis ~~and/or~~ and isoelectric focusing gel electrophoresis.

14. (Previously presented) The process of claim 11, wherein the generated desert hedgehog protein of human

origin is collected through immunoaffinity chromatography using a monoclonal antibody that recognizes a desert hedgehog protein of human origin.

Claims 15-19. Cancelled.

20. (previously presented) An isolated DNA which encodes a desert hedgehog protein of human origin having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, or an isolated DNA complementary thereto.

21. (previously presented) An isolated DNA which encodes a desert hedgehog protein of human origin having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, or an isolated DNA complementary thereto.

22. (previously presented) An isolated DNA which encodes a desert hedgehog protein of human origin having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3, or an isolated DNA complementary thereto.

23. (previously presented) The DNA of claim 21, which contains the whole of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 5.